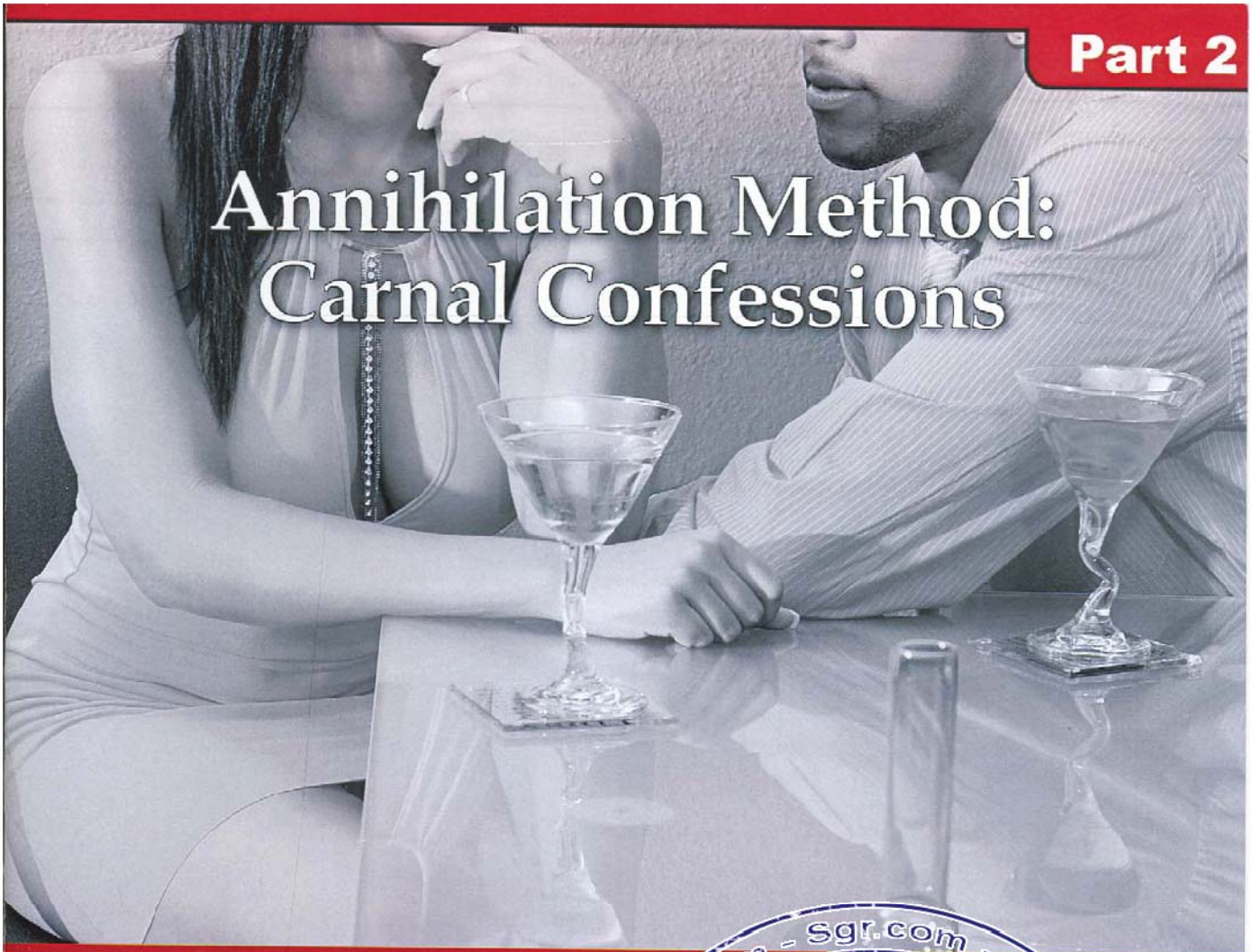
Part 2

# Annihilation Method: Carnal Confessions



# The Annihilation Method

by Neil Strauss

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*Anique:* Anique.

*Interviewer:* Hey, Anique.

*Anique:* Hi.

*Interviewer:* So just to go over the basics again: you know that this call's gonna be recorded, and we're gonna put it on a CD, and we're gonna sell it to a limited number of guys so they can help their game. And you're down with being part of the call for no recompense other than the joy of rehashing our experiences together.

*Anique:* Uh-huh.

*Interviewer:* Uh-huh. *(Laughter)* All right. So to begin, this is Anique, and we had a very odd experience, and I think it was –

*Anique:* We did.

*Interviewer:* And I think it was pretty cool, and we're gonna go over it in a different way. I was kinda gonna let you tell a lot of the story and guide you and ask you to elaborate in certain places, and we'll see where it goes. It should be interesting.

*Anique:* Okay, well, New York.

*Interviewer:* New York.

*Anique:* You were there on a seminar.

*Interviewer:* I was there on a seminar. I was doing a seminar with _____.

*Anique:* Uh-huh. With –

*Interviewer:* It was a dark and cloudy night.

*Anique:* And you were actually with someone that you were seeing at the time.

*Interviewer:* Right, I was with the girl I was seeing then. And went to a party.

*Anique:* And you guys were staying at a hotel nearby, where we met while I was –

*Interviewer:* The Maritime.

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*Anique:* The Frying Pan.

*Interviewer:* The Frying Pan.

*Anique:* Right, but you were staying at the Maritime.

*Interviewer:* That's right. I'll never forget it. *(Laughter)*

*Anique:* Aww. And I was there with my two sisters. And we were kind of waiting outside the ship, and we were waiting for the confirmation to go in. And it was very crazy, busy night. And that's when you had approached and you promised to –

*Interviewer:* Right. And I'm gonna pause for one second to give a little back story, which is that this girl that I was seeing really liked, when we went out, you know, flirting with other guys and getting that attention. And it wasn't 'cause she wasn't interested in me, it was because she was so interested in me that she wanted me to see that other guys desired her. And it's always a dangerous game when you're doing that as a woman because I could fail that test by being really insecure and needy and jealous. So whenever she did that, I would say, "Fine, let her do her thing" and just completely go walk off and go meet other girls. And soon she would come to me. It would kind of backfire in her face. So when she went out and did that, I went out to make new friends, and that's when I saw you.

*Anique:* Right. And you had initially approached my younger sister because of the jeans she was wearing.

*Interviewer:* Right. I stopped her – go 'head.

*Anique:* I guess the girl that you were seeing had the same jeans on, and they were very rare jeans. So you had approached her and been like, "You know, I like your dreams. Whatever. You wanna take a picture?" I remember grabbing your camera and taking it myself, and we just got to talking, and then you invited us back to your hotel to meet your friends.

*Interviewer:* I don't think it happened quite that quickly. I think the girl I was seeing came by while we were talking.

*Anique:* Right. You did.

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*Interviewer:* And I really wasn't, like, I really wasn't, like, hitting on anybody yet. I just kinda thought you guys were interesting and cool to talk to.

*Anique:* Right, which we are.

*Interviewer:* And from the people there, you guys seemed like you were kinda dressed cooler and looked cooler than everybody else there. So you were the kinda people I would wanna meet there anyway.

*Anique:* Thank you.

*Interviewer:* And so, then the girl I was seeing came along, and I think we were going to a party that was at the Maritime in the kind of club in the hotel there.

*Anique:* Right. Well, I did not hear a lot of that, because I was just not interested. I mean, I knew upon meeting you that you were special, that there was something there, but for some reason, I felt the need to put up this shield and sort of stay kind of reserved. When you guys were kinda talking – my older sister, younger sister and you –about that, and you invited back. Right? Are we at that point now?

*Interviewer:* Right.

*Anique:* Okay. And then should I go on?

*Interviewer:* _____ Yeah, go 'head. So, oh, no, so I was gonna ask – so, right. So I invited you guys back, but just because you guys seemed like you were bored and looking for something fun to do.

*Anique:* Well, yeah, we were waiting for my friend to come and give us the confirmation to walk us in. Like, because my younger sister was underage. *(Laughter)*

*Interviewer:* Right, and we were coming back – *(Laughter)* that's right. So we were coming back anyway. We were just gonna go to the Maritime and come back, so I thought, "Come with us to the party, and then come back, and we'll get you into The Frying Pan."

*Anique:* Uh-huh. Uh-huh. And my –

*Interviewer:* And your sisters were all up for it.

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*Anique:* All about it, and I was like, "We don't know this person. What are you guys doing?" But, of course, I think that two great minds think alike, and we were on the same page, but I just was more resistant at that time.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, you were kinda like the chaperone of your sisters, even though you were the middle sister.

*Anique:* Yeah. Mmmhmm.

*Interviewer:* And, out of curiosity – so, you know, just to kinda go through what's going through your head – when a guy comes up and talks to you, normally as a girl, you always think a guy is hitting on you, but –

*Anique:* Well, the way that you approached us wasn't even – like, I didn't even know you were coming or you were around. It was just like you were there, and you were just very calm in the way you approached us. So it wasn't – I wasn't taken back by it, or I didn't feel the need to be like, "Oh, God. Who is this? You know, just another person trying to talk to us." It was more like – and then the fact that you said, "Well, my – the girl I'm seeing has those same jeans on," it may me kinda feel like it was okay to talk for a second 'cause you were with someone.

*Interviewer:* Right. You knew it was safe.

*Anique:* Right.

*Interviewer:* Right. And I think the cardinal rule really is don't make someone uncomfortable. I think, if you can have an interaction and not make the person uncomfortable, you're gonna be okay.

*Anique:* Yes, that's very true.

*Interviewer:* And what did you think when the other girl arrived?

*Anique:* The girl that you were seeing?

*Interviewer:* Yes.

*Anique:* I thought, "Wow, she's beautiful." And then that was sort of, that sort of validated you in a sense because you kinda look at her and then look at you and be like, "All right, he's able to have a woman like this then, obviously –" not that you must be cool, but that – I don't know, it just made you more attractive in a way.

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*Interviewer:* Yeah, it's interesting how that works. I've noticed – like, have you ever, like, a guy who's, like, really, really strange or really weird? Then he says he has a girlfriend, and you're like, "Okay, he must be more normal. Maybe I don't see it." It's funny –

*Anique:* Well, not if he just says he has a girlfriend. I'd have to see her. You know, because then I'd be wondering, like, "What girl would wanna be with this guy?" I'd have to see her and then know that she was cool and then be like, "Okay. He's got potential, or there's something in him that's – she's – he must be cool."

*Interviewer:* And I think I was dressed pretty loudly that night. I was probably peacock-ing it in a brightly –

*Anique:* You were. You were wearing that pink coat, that suit coat.

*Interviewer:* And was that – you know, a lot of guys, when they hear about peacock-ing think, "Oh my God. I would never wear that. People would think I was gay" or what have you. Did that help or hurt that I was wearing something so loud.

*Anique:* Well, you definitely looked sort of metro sexual in a way.

*Interviewer:* That's a polite way to put it.

*Anique:* But it was attractive. You were sort of feminine but yet masculine in the way that you spoke and thought. But, no, that definitely helped because I thought you looked great, and you stood out.

*Interviewer:* Okay, cool. I'll keep it then. Thanks. *(Laughter)* And so – right – so you guys said you weren't coming. We went to the Maritime. And I didn't take it personally, and the fact is the girl I was seeing probably wouldn't have enjoyed me bringing three other girls along anyway.

*Anique:* Yeah, she didn't like us, I thought.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, she was kind of vibing you guys out a little bit. So I went to the Maritime, came back in about an hour or so, and you guys were in by then. And then she went off *(Coughing)* excuse me – then she went off and did her kind of flirting, flirty, show-off thing.

*Anique:* Right, and then we ran into us again. And at that point you were standing with Mystery.

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*Interviewer:* Yeah, yeah, right.

*Anique:* And you said, "Hey, did you guys meet – have you met my friend Mystery. He's a magician." And then that's when he did the little trick with the straw and bringing it out of the cup with my younger sister. And I had to step in and be like, "How did you do that? That was so cool." So at that point, that worked, that technique had worked as far as drawing our attention in.

*Interviewer:* And we had talked earlier about eye access and cues, hadn't we? About how the –

*Anique:* Later.

*Interviewer:* So that was later. Okay. I'm with you still. So yeah, Mystery started doing the moves on your younger sister, and she was pretty into it, as I recall.

*Anique:* Right. 'Cause it captured her attention. She's one that is not spiritual and doesn't believe in magic, so to see that, a straw lift up out of her cup and sit on the side and then drop, she was just like, "Wow! How did you do it?" And that totally got her at that point.

*Interviewer:* Right. And the game was sort of on. I remember him sort of teasing and flirting with her and kind of being push, pull, and I can saw the chemistry taking place.

*Anique:* Mmmhmm. Definitely. And it was perfect timing because she'd just broken up with her boyfriend and was looking hot and feeling hot. And, you know –

*Interviewer:* Yeah, timing is an important factor. Sometimes –

*Anique:* It is important.

*Interviewer:* Sometimes a guy will meet a woman and have an amazing connection and then she won't return his calls, and he can't figure it out. And sometimes it was just bad timing. Maybe she was breaking up with an ex and then got back together with an ex. Sometimes it's out of your control.

*Anique:* Or maybe she was going through something emotional and didn't want to convey that. I think for women, or some types of women, it's harder hide that or suppress it, so it can also make a girl back away.

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*Interviewer:* Right that's a great point. Three points.

*Anique:* Thank you. *(Laughter)*

*Interviewer:* So next – okay, so then what happened?

*Anique:* We took some pictures, then we sort of just left each other for awhile. We went and did our thing and then, let's see, it was by the bathrooms, and I was coming out and literally bumped right into you.

*Interviewer:* Right, and this was the magic moment for you.

*Anique:* Right. That was the magic moment. *(Laughter)* And I don't know how this came out of my mouth or why it came out, because I'm not one to use that word freely, but I was like, "Oh my god, I love you." And it was just sort of like, "You're so cute." Like, it was just some sort of familiarity and recognizing your face in that place, and it was so stuffy and – 'cause you know that it's really small. It was sort of a relief to see you.

*Interviewer:* Right. And it's interesting –

*Anique:* And –

*Interviewer:* Go 'head.

*Anique:* It was strange to feel that way and initially have that shield up like, "I don't wanna join you. Who are you?" I feel the girlfriend – or the girl that you were seeing really helped you.

*Interviewer:* That's interesting. I feel, too, like, when I go places –

*Anique:* And made it comfortable.

*Interviewer:* When I go to places, like, I have anchors. I always tell guys as soon as I walk in a place, I'll make friends right away. It isn't necessarily a woman I want to date or people I even want to be friend with, but I'll just find a group and they'll be my anchors. And then if I'm getting lost or I'm feeling lonely, what ever it is, I'll go back to my anchor people and just kinda get comfortable again and go out. And you guys were kinda like my anchors. It was good to see you again. I felt anchored. If that makes sense.

*Anique:* Uh-huh.

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*Interviewer:* And another funny thing – just an observation – is I always tell guys: after you've sort of connected with a woman and made out or spent the night together to ask, "When was the moment when you were first attracted to me?" And a lot of times – you should always get that feedback because you never really know. Sometimes it's a small thing. And I think, for you, it was that moment of just destiny forcing us together again at the bathrooms.

*Anique:* Well, it was a few things. It was like we kept running into you. And I just felt like the universe kept putting it in my face and putting it in my face. And that's when I had let both of my sisters know, I was like, "I know that he's seeing someone, but there's something about him, and I just feel it." And they know to listen to me when I say it 'cause I'm a very perceptive and aware person and very in tune with my instincts. So at that moment, that was the magic moment, you could say. But I knew to sort of stay reserved 'cause I wouldn't cross that line. I just wouldn't do it.

*Interviewer:* And it's interesting – and so, a little later in the evening, we all ended up sort of at a booth together. Correct?

*Anique:* Yeah. Yeah. And that's when you taught us the eye thing. You asked my younger sister a series of five questions. You probably have a name for it. About her car, and then one would be a lie. And then you asked us to think of something, and it was the way that we looked that you could tell what we were. And I remember, I was a combination.

*Interviewer:* Right. Well, I thought it was interesting because you guys were all sisters, and you guys all had certain things that were in common. Yet, you all kind of looked and thought differently. and you had different kind of eye movements for when you thought.

*Anique:* Right. Your quote was that we all had our own individual spark.

*Interviewer:* Right, which is true. Which is very true.

*Anique:* We just have that bond and that unity.

*Interviewer:* Yeah. And normally I wouldn't comment on something as obvious as sisters, but it was deeper than the, "Oh, you guys look alike. Oh, you guys don't look like" thing that most guys say. And, right, so I went to eye access and cues, which is discussing the different positions of your eye and what they mean. And then we went into playing the lying game, which is – it's great – it's

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telling when somebody is lying without them saying a word. You just watch their eye movements, which is –

*Anique:* I would like to bring up at this point – just as far as us sort of having our own sparks – that the way we were dressed, when we go out, we kind of are very versatile. Sometimes it could be cowboy boots and cutoff skirt and a _____ cowboy hat, or maybe like what I was wearing, just a hat to the side, hoop earrings and like a cute skirt, so it continues like a hip-hop sort of feel. And then the older sister of mine was wearing sort of a rock and roll type of outfit that she wouldn't normally wear. We dressed her. And then my younger sister, I dressed her as well. She was wearing fishnets with little booty shorts.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, she was kind of punk. You're like rock and hip-hop.

*Anique:* Right, so upon meeting us, you sort of – off of that – in your mind judged us on what you felt we could be about.

*Interviewer:* I can't tell a lie. I did.

*Anique:* 'Cause you totally misconstrued me. That's okay. This was continued.

*Interviewer:* You're so misunderstood. *(Laughter)*

*Anique:* I know. Aww.

*Interviewer:* It is true. And here's what interesting, and this is the moment of misunderstanding, which is that I mistook your distance not for being respectful of my situation. I mistook your distance for just kind of being colder and more closed off or cautious, whereas your older sister started –

*Anique:* Which is all very true.

*Interviewer:* Which is all very true.

*Anique:* That and being respectable towards another. You know?

*Interviewer:* So, whereas, your older sister started showing more interest.

*Anique:* Right. And that's something _____.

*Interviewer:* _____ kinda always a little bit in the background, so I assessed it – I started talking with her for awhile.

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*Anique:* Well, that's the thing is I'm not normally in the background. I'm always right up front. I'm always the leader when we go out with anyone really and just in that circumstance, I knew to kinda stay away.

*Interviewer:* And then I think your older sister felt a little bit competitive.

*Anique:* Right. There was some obvious competition going on, but I just felt like, "I wanna sit back and watch it and just see both sides and sort of play with it." It was funny to me.

*Interviewer:* Right. So –

*Anique:* When you have confidence – and this is so important, even when you're dealing with women as a man and approaching them – you've got to pick confident girls because they're more secure with themselves. I feel like a confident female wouldn't get as easily jealous as somebody that was more insecure.

*Interviewer:* Right. And in the community, there's a name for the other girls, which you call them LSE girls, which is low self-esteem girls. And they're the ones you want to avoid because their behaviors are often self-destructive.

So anyway – so I sat with your older sister, and at this point we started –

*Anique:* And that's at the booth where you sat her down or sort of enclosed on her and –

*Interviewer:* *(Laughter)* I enclosed on her.

*Anique:* You guys were talking. Like a vampire. *(Laughter)*

*Interviewer:* Exactly. I trapped her under my pink coat.

*Anique:* Right. And –

*Interviewer:* And we – go 'head.

*Anique:* Yeah, and you started talking and laughing and growing in conversation.

*Interviewer:* Right, and we kinda got pretty deep. And I think – and I remember that – I used to be really scared before I joined the community

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about knowing when to kiss a girl and when not to. And while we were talking, I kinda felt like that – now, I know – it's hard to explain. It's almost like I feel like the energy between two people just gets charged, and you know it's right.

*Anique:* The air around them.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, the air around them. I just feel like all the sudden it gets electric. And soon as you say to yourself in your head, "Should I be kissing this person or not?" that usually means yes. But of course, the girl I was seeing was there, and I wasn't really gonna do it there. But I felt like that window opened, and I knew that was going on. So at this point –

*Anique:* Well, I –

*Interviewer:* Go 'head.

*Anique:* I beg to differ in a sense. And you'll know better because you were in that moment, but I think if you're asking yourself, "Should I or not?" that is sort of in a way doubting it. And if you ever have any doubts, I don't think you should against them. You should listen to that. I think it was maybe just – maybe you should have phrased it different.

*Interviewer:* You know what? No.

*Anique:* I think you could have felt – go 'head.

*Interviewer:* Let me explain. The experience for a guy is very different, especially a guy who came from a background like I did, where I wasn't very popular with women. So whenever a girl was into me, I always doubted it. I was like, "How can she be into me? She must be into everybody else." So as a guy who's coming from a position of less security, as soon as I'm thinking, "Should I or shouldn't I?" it usually means I should 'cause if I actually think about it, I'll always think, "Oh, it's not me. Oh, she's like this with every guy. Oh – I don't know – what if she doesn't go for it." So, in my case, based on my own feedback, as soon as I start wondering if I should it means I should. The message is there.

*Anique:* Okay. That was well explained.

*Interviewer:* Thank you. *(Laughter)* So – and _____ that interaction, we had exchanged phone numbers or email addresses afterward.

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*Anique:* Right. Well, we had initially exchanged numbers to stay in contact 'cause we wanted to meet up eventually later. That's how that came about.

*Interviewer:* Right. And then –

*Anique:* _____ with her cell phone.

*Interviewer:* Right. And then afterward I stayed in touch with your sister for awhile. There was like a – we talked on the phone. There was like a little bit of a connection. We hung out a few times. It actually even seemed like we might start dating at one point. But –

*Anique:* Well, I think with the distance that was present because we live in New York and you live somewhere else, I mean, dating – I don't know.

*Interviewer:* Right. But it was – there was a sort of connection –

*Anique:* Maybe a New York lover. *(Laughter)*

*Interviewer:* But, you know, time changes all things. And over time we sort of drifted apart. She had a boyfriend. But you and I had stayed in touch.

*Anique:* Right. But it was more of a friendship type of thing, and I really wanted to – because I was a virgin, I was always very big on building a foundation off of friendship. And I remember calling you or emailing you at certain times for guy advice or talking about how I almost had sex on my birthday, and you gave me amazing advice, and we talked and laughed. And it was great t get a guy's honest, real opinion. And I think that that made me feel more close and more comfortable with you because we built that.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, and I remember that conversation. Here's an intresting question, which is: at that point – you generally tell guys not to be the girlfriend, not to give the advice and be that person, but in that case I kinda was that person giving the sound advice. And I remember that conversation very well, and I think it was important because you felt that you could be open and honest with me.

*Anique:* Right. Right. And I felt like there was nothing that I had to prove, or there was nothing that I had to convey. I could just be real and talk to you like one of my friends. Not a girlfriend, per se, but a guy friend. And for me that's very important to be able to talk to someone and have that friendship because it just, it's great to build

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things off of that if you have it first because then – and this is going a little bit ahead, but you can always go back to that if you stay mature and in touch with yourself. Does that make sense?

*Interviewer:* Right. So the rule is: don't be the girlfriend; be the guy friend.

*Anique:* Yes. But like a girlfriend. *(Laughter)*

*Interviewer:* Be the guy friend like the girlfriend.

*Anique:* Yes. *(Laughter)*

*Interviewer:* Be the masculine girlfriend.

*Anique:* Yes.

*Interviewer:* So we have a – and I – yeah, I kinda feel like that was a turning point 'cause it was really – we made a kind of a deeper connection. And so the next time I was in New York, we said we were gonna get together. And now, out of curiosity, the times you emailed and were sort of – I sort of feel like in many ways, sort of like you seduced me. Not to – I'm not being smart-assed about it.

*Anique:* Oh, no, no, no. I didn't take it like that. I mean, yes, I chose you. And I knew that I would watch things dissipate with my older sister because that's just in her nature, especially when she goes through her boyfriends fairly quick, when she's in them, she's in them. And I just felt like because I was real upfront and because I was real throughout it, it was easier to pursue you, per se. Not that my intentions were to eventually start dating, but it was just, it was more simple.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, I'm gonna tell you what you did. There's a guy named David D'Angelo who has a rule, which is don't let the line go slack. Which is, when you make a connection with somebody, if you wait too long to contact them and too much time passes, the line kinda goes slack, and you lose interest and go about your life. But if you're, like, up their ass all the time and calling and emailing every day, you pull that line too tight, and it just snaps. So you made sure that we stayed in contact on and off the whole time, so the line never went slack.

*Anique:* Right. Even when you were away on your birthday, and I remembered your birthday, and I called you.

*Interviewer:* That was awesome.

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*Anique:* Do you remember that?

*Interviewer:* Yeah.

*Anique:* And I had lost my voice, but I attempted to sing you "Happy Birthday."

*Interviewer:* Oh, yeah, that's right. I forgot about that little birthday song, probably because half of it was unaudible.

*Anique:* But anyway, yeah, so we started talking more just about things that I normally wouldn't speak to anybody about, really, especially a guy. And then a few months past, and then you had emailed that you were coming in. And I remember being so excited.

*Interviewer:* Aww.

*Anique:* And you initially invited Francesca to come, but she couldn't come 'cause she was with her boyfriend. And – or she'd just broken up or something, playing the sick game, but I just thought, "You know what? Fuck it. He was really cool, and I'm not going to waste this because she doesn't wanna come." And so I rounded up my younger sister, her boyfriend at the time, you – and who else was there?

*Interviewer:* Jessica.

*Anique:* Right. And Mystery, right?

*Interviewer:* Mystery, right.

*Anique:* And my brother.

*Interviewer:* And your brother. It was the whole gang.

*Anique:* Right, which is very strange because my brother and Jessica were sort of seeing each other.

*Interviewer:* Right. But he was kind of sick of seeing her.

*Anique:* Right. *(Laughter)* Okay. So – and then, let's see –

*Interviewer:* She's one of those people who – there's some girls who don't look for boyfriends, they look for houses to stay at. And she's one of those people.

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*Anique:* Right. And my brother was that person but definitely got sick of it and needed to sort of push her off to something else. He couldn't help her anymore.

*Interviewer:* Right. And Mystery was conveniently there. So we all went out to, like, a fun hooca place in Greenwich Village, Casa la Fem, I think it's called. And we just kinda sat around, and we all kinda talked and connected, and it was pretty fun. And at that point, like, I knew at that point, I realized that you and I had this – I think it knew it before.

*Anique:* You know what's funny is that I didn't really realize it. Like, I knew that I felt it, but it wasn't like, "I wanna take him home" or "I wanna turn this into something sexual." It was just – it felt so good to be in that and to feel it, like the air became charged like you say. Then I remember walking from there to get a few drinks. Remember those coconut, like, Slurpee drinks that we got? And we made Mystery drink some. *(Laughter)*

*Interviewer:* Yeah, 'cause at that point he hadn't drinkin' alcohol before. *(Laughter)* And now –

*Anique:* And then the night went on, and we went to dinner.

*Interviewer:* And I also just wanna point out too that I felt like, "Okay, we have this connection." But I didn't feel like we needed to milk it. We didn't need to sit together and talk together the whole time. I felt like we could be social, and we could be fun, and I could make – you know, get along with your brother and get along with Jessica.

*Anique:* Yeah, and I loved that. I loved watching you talk with everyone and sort of be that light. You know, normally how – when you're in a group of people, I've noticed that you just – I don't know if it's your intention, but you ruled that crowd. You ruled that spot in that place. And I loved that.

*Interviewer:* You know what's interesting is that I'm really good in groups, but I'm bad one-on-one.

*Anique:* That's not true.

*Interviewer:* Well, once you know me, I'm better one-on-one, but for me –

*Anique:* Well, why do you feel like that is?

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*Interviewer:* I don't know. I don't know.

*Anique:* Is it having insecurities or doubts or –?

*Interviewer:* *(Laughter)* This is good. You're psychoanalyzing me, but I think it's like an energy level thing. I think I love working groups, like, I really understand group dynamics really well, so I love playing people off against each other and working that whole group dynamic, whereas when I'm one-on-one, there's no group dynamic, there's just two people. And some people like it. Like, Ross Jeffries, who's one of the guys in the book. He's really good at sitting someone down and running these crazy, weird, hypnotic scripts. I love, just socially, having fun and finding people's strengths and weaknesses and admiring them for their strengths and teasing them for their weaknesses. And I think everyone has a good time, and then finally, you and I had this connection. And as soon as everyone leaves, we can just finally breathe a huge sigh of relief and just, like, fall into each others' arms, and it's a wonderful thing.

*Anique:* Right, which happened, I think, in the car that Mystery rented. Jessica was in the front street. And we missed the gap – he sort of talked with her and then I selated her and then definitely had her enwrapped in whatever he's about. And she was in the front. We were in the back. And I remember being like, "Okay, I'm gonna go home." And I was gonna take Jess with me as a saver for my brother, but I ended up – we pulled up to my house, and I remember giving her the keys to go in, and I was like, "Okay, I'm coming", and you were like, "Don't leave." And at that moment, we kissed, and I stayed. And which was very odd because that's not something I would do, and you know that.

*Interviewer:* Right. I totally forgot about that little magical backseat because I felt like we were in there forever, looking back on it, because I think we drove all over town. And then a friend of ours was staying at a hotel, right?

*Anique:* Uh-huh.

*Interviewer:* And so we decided to all go to that hotel room. That's what happened, right?

*Anique:* No. With Jessica?

*Interviewer:* Yeah.

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*Anique:* No, honey. I just said how I gave her my keys, and she went into my place, and I said I would follow. And then I decided to stay. That was another night. That was like a few nights after.

*Interviewer:* That's right.

*Anique:* Anyway. We stayed together that night.

*Interviewer:* I'll never forget it.

*Anique:* We didn't have sex – just for the record – that night. I think we just kind of kissed and maybe fooled around and –

*Interviewer:* Did we sleep together?

*Anique:* We did. We slept in the same bed.

*Interviewer:* Cool. Awesome. That's awesome.

*Anique:* Yeah, for you. *(Laughter)* So we slept in the same bed, and we just –

*Interviewer:* Oh, yeah. I remember. Yeah, we kinda made out and you were kinda being –

*Anique:* We kinda talked until, like, six in the morning. Do you remember? And just kissed a lot. And I loved that. That was really cool to me.

*Interviewer:* And I realized – I understood your borders. Whenever you started getting nervous, it felt like it'd get too far, you'd kinda jump up and get spazzy, you know, and loud. *(Laughter)*

*Anique:* Become a brat, yeah.

*Interviewer:* Because you're a brat, but also because it was your way of what they call fractioning yourself. You wanted to pull out of it, and that was your way of kinda breaking the tension was kind of by getting silly and girly and giggly and kinda pulling back. And I understood that. I understood that, like, I get these emails from guys or I talk to them, and they're like, "Well, I'm great at meeting a girl, and I can sleep with her after a couple dates, but I wanna be able to sleep with her right away." But guess what? If you're – there's no reason to rush it if you know you're gonna see the person again. Who cares, like, whether you sleep with them within 15 minutes or tonight –?

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*Anique:* No, because you know what? If it's a woman – I believe if it's a woman – sorry to interrupt, but if it's a woman of quality, I don't think that she would sleep with you on the first night, no matter how strong the connection was.

*Interviewer:* See, I think –

*Anique:* I think she would have saved that. It would stay there, and it would develop, whether it was two nights later or three nights later.

*Interviewer:* See, I disagree.

*Anique:* I mean, that's just my opinion.

*Interviewer:* Here's my theory. My thing is you should wait to sleep with a guy until you know he likes you for who you are. And sometimes, like – we coulda met and maybe we could have slept together within 15 minutes of meeting each other, just it was like amazing, whirlwind. We go to the bathroom and then we might never separate for years. With other people, maybe you have to wait longer until they get to see your personality. I think the general rule is waiting – I don't think you're lower or higher quality depending on how long you wait to sleep with a guy. I think it's the reasons you sleep with them.

*Anique:* Okay. Well, _____.

*Interviewer:* We are.

*Anique:* I would just like to see more women of that – that you mentioned – in a healthy relationship that derives off of something like that. Maybe if I saw that more, I would believe it.

*Interviewer:* Right. I'll go with that.

*Anique:* But you're more experienced than I am, so I'll take your word.

*Interviewer:* And I think – I do think some guys have an issue that they'll think less of a girl if she sleeps with her right away, and that's their own fault for fucking shit up because I don't think it means a lot. Like I have some friends who are married, and she's very proud of herself because she didn't sleep with him on the first night. She waited 'til the second night. But you know what? They would have been ready anyway. She didn't really prove anything. But that said –

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*Anique:* Move along, darling.

*Interviewer:* Back to the original goal is don't make somebody uncomfortable. And so the goal was not to make you too uncomfortable that first night. We could fool around and –

*Anique:* Right. And then I remember that we didn't leave each other for, what? Like one or two more days. And then I remember, like, one of the last days, I had said something – I was looking at your face, and I was looking into your eyes. And I loved doing that because you just looked so sweet and just open and vulnerable, and I felt more powerful. And I remember looking at you and I said something stupid that conveyed a message of, "Don't get the wrong impression. Like, I just wanna look, and I just wanna stare and you for a second." And you snapped back at me, which was something that was never done. And you began to teach me to let go, and I think that was a very important element that – I sort of was like, "Whoa, he just put me in my place, when I thought I was ruling it." And I kinda shut down, and I listened. And I felt comfortable in what you were telling me and teaching me.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, that's a great point. Yeah. That's a really good point. I really remember that dynamic, that you kinda felt like you hadda be in control, but the truth was you hadda let go.

*Anique:* Right. That's true. And it was my way of maybe feeling like maybe I had let go of what I was in control. When the truth was that I wasn't. And there was something that I was fighting at that point, and you just taught me to give in. Not to give in, but just to let go and to let loose and just be.

*Interviewer:* And here's a very important question: what allowed you to feel safe letting go?

*Anique:* I think that I was just building that. I was feeling you out, and I didn't – I was searching for a reason. Normally, I would find one instantly. But I was searching, and I couldn't find anything. And I would sort of talk and just kind of stare at you again and just feel things out, and I couldn't find anything again, so I just thought, you know what? "I have to stop fighting it." And that's when you snapped back at me. And I just – I don't know. And it was just weird, like, the whole little time when we first had sex, which was my first time, I don't remember a lot of it. It was just kinda like the air was so charged that we were just in this world.

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*Interviewer:* Yeah, I love that.

*Anique:* For those hours.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, like this little bubble that was just us two and nothing else existed.

*Anique:* Right.

*Interviewer:* But it felt very real at the same time. And it's interesting – you just said that you were thinking of a reason not too. And that's a really great point. You never said that before, and I really think it's true that when women are with a guy, they usually give the guy the benefit of the doubt to start with, but they're also waiting to see what little tell-tale sign he's gonna do that's gonna say, "No, he's not right for me." So when a girl likes you, really all you have to do is do nothing wrong, but there's so many things you can do wrong, it's amazing.

*Anique:* Yep. That's very true.

*Interviewer:* And that's why I think – when people talk about if a guy doesn't really doesn't have a woman's best interest at heart or if he's telling some kind of elaborate lie to her or something, at some point, a woman's intuition's gonna pick up on that.

*Anique:* Well, yeah. And I think her intuition becomes a lot stronger at that point, at the final moment when you're gonna make that decision: "Do I wanna sleep with him? Or do I wanna just not and sort of be friends and go to sleep?"

*Interviewer:* And I definitely think also, it's interesting because – I guess I haven't asked this question, and I'm curious: since you hadn't been with a guy before, did you have an idea in your head of what it would be like or what you were waiting for? Did you know or not know?

*Anique:* No. No. And that's the funny thing. I wasn't like, "Oh my god. I'm about to have sex." It was more like it just happened, and it was amazing. And it was so – it was just so beautiful. And so I think that to have that, to come out of it and be like, "No it didn't hurt, and it was just great. And I feel like everybody's first time should be of a similar experience" was great to me because it didn't mold me to sort of be like, "Well, it hurt. And it was horrible. And I didn't know what I was doing." I remember at a certain point you were like, "Are you sure you've never had sex."

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And I was like, "You should know. I haven't." But it was just like we were in tune.

*Interviewer:* I know. *(Laughter)* For a moment I thought, "Maybe this is just something she tells guys," like that girl in Wedding Crasher.

*Anique:* You know, I just got that DVD, and I wanna watch it. *(Laughter)*

*Interviewer:* It's pretty funny.

*Anique:* I wanted to bring up something, so don't talk for a second before I forget. Oh, I was aware, you know, through meeting you and just watching how things evolved, that there was certain little techniques being used, but my theory on that is that to a certain extent, a girl needs to be gamed. She needs techniques used on her because – and she may even be aware of it, but I feel like it makes things more interesting, and it just adds to the challenge and the connection. I feel like it makes things grow. And it is important. I think that men spend so much time learning on how to game a girl that he needs to understand that she wants that too.

*Interviewer:* Yeah. You know, it's been the most interesting thing in these conversations is that we think sometimes we're being so sneaky with our kind of camouflage openers and licit routines. And sometimes the girl likes you, and she wants to be seduced, and she's allowing you to play the game on her because she likes you and likes the game.

*Anique:* Right. Well, in my case, it was to be intrigued, not seduced.

*Interviewer:* I think as long as she's not being deceived, and as long as you're being yourself, that's okay. And sometimes I knew you were playing sort of your game.

*Anique:* Yeah, I was. But not to sort of mean to do it. It just came naturally. And then I feel like at that moment up until we had sex, I feel like you didn't have any more techniques. You didn't have any more stories or little lines or anything. It was just you and me. And I think that that was the moment when I just knew – when it all stopped, and it was just us – that I loved you.

*Interviewer:* Aww.

*Anique:* And then I knew it was safe to go about what we were gonna do based on that.

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*Interviewer:* Right. And now, I'm sure, obviously, you dated guys before and guys had hit on you before.

*Anique:* Uh-huh.

*Interviewer:* What did you find that most guys did if you – when you kinda pulled the brakes with them? Did they get angry? Did they get upset? Did they break up with you? Did they just say fine? What were most guys' reactions?

*Anique:* I think a lot of the guys, it's more like, "Okay, I knew that was coming. I knew it wasn't going to go anywhere" because they would know that I would draw the boundary. In other words, they would look at me and know, "Mmm, she's gonna be a tough one" or be intimidated by my beauty. And I don't mean to sound conceited, but a lot of people are, even females. I get that more from women. So for me to turn them down, when – let's say for example, I knew that they were after my virginity or to hook up with me or just to have me as some sweet arm candy, I think I totally just forgot my point. I'm having a blonde moment.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, you were saying that with these guys, who you felt wanted you at as arm candy or were just after, saying like, "I'm gonna be the one to get her virginity" kind of things, maybe – they were guys in your social circle.

*Anique:* Right, right, right. They were well aware that were taking a risk, and I think when they knew that I would sort of draw that line and then stop all communication or stop dating them, I think they didn't even pursue it. They didn't even get angry, to answer your question. They just sort of knew.

*Interviewer:* Right. And this is just totally an obnoxious question, but I'm gonna ask it because for a guy you wanna lose your virginity as fast as possible, whereas for a girl it's sort of a bigger deal. Did you feel, after you left – you were what? 20, 21? 21?

*Anique:* 21, right.

*Interviewer:* Did you feel like, "Whoa, why did I wait so long?" Did you feel like, "I'm glad I waited 'til now"?

*Anique:* I don't think I could have been any more happy than waiting 'til that moment because – I don't know. I don't know if it's the way it unfolded or just who you are as a person and who you were to me at that point as well. I just felt very glad that I had chosen you.

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*Interviewer:* It's interesting. And I always tell guys that there's a very simple sequence that male, female relationships go through – and our conversation almost outlined it perfectly – which is: you open, which was discussing you sister's jeans; you demonstrate value, which was Mystery's magic and my eye access and talk; you make an emotional connection, which was the conversations we had on the phone; and then you make a physical connection, which is when I returned to New York. And things kinda have to follow that sequence. _____ emotional connection that's gonna happen, and certain things – it generally is a sequence that kind of a comfortable relationship falls into.

*Anique:* Right. In other words, you have to go through the processes first before you reach that, and it's very important to conquer all of them, to have it unfold to be something. I think that's a very valid point that needs to be brought up is: yes, how do you get the girl? But more importantly, how do you keep her if you want her? And that's just bringing more meaning into it, you know.

*Interviewer:* Yeah. And, right. And it's funny – this is gonna sound horrible, but my – I never think about how to keep a girl because once we've had sex, I definitely know that the option of keeping her is there. To me, if I've ever in a rush to have sex, it isn't 'cause I wasn't get my rocks off or conquer something, it's more because I feel like, "Now that this is out of the way, and you're not keeping anything – you know, and you're not keeping anything from me, and I'm not trying to get something from you" you can kinda relax and maybe be normal. So the keeping part for me is pretty easy. And I think as long as the sex is good, she usually wants to see you again anyway. *(Laughter)* And assuming the emotional connection's there. And really, despite this whole kinda pick-up artist thing, there wasn't anyone who I would be with who I wouldn't wanna see again. And I'm trying to think of anything else that was kind of salientive, our sort of experience.

But, you know, the other question being that you feel, before and after, you – a lot of guys are always approaching you and coming onto you. Can you – just out of curiosity – what's the biggest mistake guys make? And what's the best thing they can do right?

*Anique:* The biggest mistake they make is using really common pick-up lines. The biggest mistake can be a few things. It would be being at a club with a girlfriend and then hitting on you. I would look at him like such dirt, like, "Wow, like this is someone I really want to have sex with, who doesn't respect women." That would be one.

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The second one would be – I already named the first, which was the cheesy pick-up lines. The third one would be – I don't know – the coming on things that are very typical, even though they may seem genuine, and most of the time they are. I like things that are rare. Like, for someone to say to we – which is rare – like, "I love your eyelashes. They're so beautiful."

*Interviewer:* Not to make generic compliments.

*Anique:* _____ the eyes. That's different than saying, "Your eyes are so beautiful; are you wearing contacts?" It's like they're looking deeper, and their noticing something because I do have long eyelashes. That's something that would – it's either that or something more unique that would kind of make me smile. Or – I don't know – simple things, little things, things that people don't normally notice. Those are the things that would make me wanna sit down, talk to him for a minute.

*Interviewer:* Right. Being the exception to the generic –

*Anique:* Right, right.

*Interviewer:* Guys that are always out there.

*Anique:* Right. And I don't know. It's just – you can tell – when a guy walks up, you can tell if he's wearing too much cologne or if he's too put together or if he's just got this sort of desperation in his face. I mean, those are things that you can initially pick up on when somebody approaches you. And those things turn me off the most as well.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, those subtle cues are everything. And I really think that's the hardest part of it for guys. And I always recommend shopping with a girl so at least you can have yourself put together right. And approaching a few women first before you approach the woman you're really interested in because that way you're a little more comfortable and not needy and anxious and all these little micro-cues that girls pick up on and guys don't as often. And it's not like you ever study that, you just know it right away. And that's why, often, the things we say – the openers, the lines, are often things to just keep your mouth busy while you can watch your body language and how it's coming across and how she's perceiving you and whether you're, you know, closing in on the space too much or making her uncomfortable in any way.

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*Anique:* Okay. So I have a question for you. *(Laughter)* You hesitated. So the moments up until – or the moments after we had the conversation about letting go, did you know that we would have sex?

*Interviewer:* I knew we would have sex. I didn't know it would be that night, but I knew we would.

*Anique:* And how did you know?

*Interviewer:* I certainly feel like – it wasn't like a knowing, and it wasn't like a cocky, "I'm so cool; she's gonna have sex with me." It was just like – it just seemed like an eventuality. It just seemed like it was all going toward that. And I didn't know whether it would go there quickly or go there slowly. I just knew that it would escalate until it went there.

*Anique:* I think 'cause we were so good, we had our things tested a lot, our chemistry and our connection, that I think we passed various tests, per se, where you're right, it would have led up to that at some point.

*Interviewer:* And there also – now, looking back – there was something about that conversation we had, where you were talking about almost losing your virginity on your birthday that kinda let me know that you were ready, but you weren't comfortable with that person.

*Anique:* Well, it wasn't that I wasn't comfortable with that person. It was just like, we were great in every other area, but those moments I had sort of, you know, had this amazing hotel, and my sister put rose petals everywhere, and I had the bath and the candles, and it was all for myself. And yes, I chose him to come. I had him come into New York from LA, and I really wanted him to be that person. And I think that it was so built up that when we got down to the moment of just – we took a bath together and then we were naked in our robes, and we were lying there – it was like I had this choice: did I wanna do it? And I didn't.

*Interviewer:* Right. And whereas ours just happened. There was no pre-thought. There was no sort of anticipation. It was just – that's what I was kinda saying, that it was almost like this ball slowly rolling down, gathering speed and mass.

*Anique:* Right. And we had an amazing time up until the moment, so I just thought, "What am I doing?" And I knew that it wasn't right, and so I stopped. We stopped. We were proceeding to have sex, and I

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just – I knew that's not how I wanted it to be. Even though that I was in the most amazing hotel room with such an incredible person, for me, just something in me just shut down. Whereas with you, it was more like it wasn't planned. It wasn't some big, beautiful setting. It was just an intimate, small, little hotel room, and it just happened. It was a choice that I made, but it wasn't like I knew it was gonna happen that night. You know?

*Interviewer:* Right. That's very cool. Yeah, that's really interesting.

*Anique:* Yeah, you're a very lucky person.

*Interviewer:* *(Laughter)* I'm a very lucky person, but –

*Anique:* We were both lucky.

*Interviewer:* Yes. On a scale of one to ten, how lucky are we?

*Anique:* What?

*Interviewer:* On a scale of one to ten, how lucky are we?

*Anique:* Mmm, I would say an eleven.

*Interviewer:* All right. And on that note, ladies and gentlemen, Anique.

*Anique:* Thank you.

*Interviewer:* All right. I'll talk to you later. Bye.

*[End of Audio]*

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